



## EPA finds larger amounts of liquid waste at Bossert

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An Environmental Protection Agency official says the volume of debris and liquid waste at the abandoned Bossert Manufacturing Corp. in Utica is greater than first believed.

Joseph Rotola, coordinator of the EPA cleanup process, said the larger amounts pose no health threat, but he said it will lengthen the time work crews must spend cleaning the site.

Officials from EPA and an independent hazardous waste removal company have been at Bossert about a month. Rotola said the staff of about 15 has been busy separating and identifying substances.

The cleanup at Bossert could last all summer, but Rotola said it was impossible to project exactly they would finish. "Everything depends on sampling and how extensive the contamination is."

Thousands of gallons of water and oil have already been pumped from ground level vats into special holding tanks at the site, Rotola said. Some of the vats hold

15,000 gallons of oil and water.

Rotola said about 55,000 gallons of oil and water have been pumped out of vats at Bossert. Under the liquids, Rotola said workers discovered large amounts metal stamping machine debris.

More than 300 55-gallon drums have been filled with a variety of chemicals and acids, Rotola said.

Officials also found an underground tank filled with about 20,000 gallons of thick fuel oil, which is proving difficult to remove.

A total of 22 transformers containing PCBs were drained. PCBs are a suspected cancer causing substance that in small doses can irritate the throat and lungs. Rotola said any health threat is limited. "The main problem is someone coming in, touching the substances and getting them on their bodies," he said.

Security guards are posted at the site around the clock.

He said it is too early to estimate how much the cleanup operation will cost and said it will be up to EPA attorneys to determine who may pay the cleanup bill.